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JANUARY 1938

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most powerful magnet. It is there that money may most quickly be made. In recent years the city has developed with amazing speed, and now contains one-eighth of South Africa's white population. The South African Dutchman, like the French Canadian, is a countryman. He is rooted to the soil, from which he draws his strength. He differs from the Briton in his outlook on life, his way of living, and his sense of the value of things, and it is there that the explanation of the differential fertility of South Africa's white races may most profitably be sought.

But in both races of white settlers fertility is declining. The net reproduction rate of the white settlers fell from 1.448 in 1926 to 1.215 in 1933.* And the great majority of South Africa's inhabitants are not white settlers. Little is known of the fertility of the coloured races, but they outnumber the white races so greatly that it is clear that the problems of differential fertility in the Union are not limited to differences between the British and Dutch elements. The prosperity of the white population is bound up with the gold industry, which has for years enjoyed a boom

that reverberates throughout the whole world. Though the industry has survived various gloomy predictions, the mines are not inexhaustible, and there are those who would say that it has yet to be shown that South Africa can survive as a white man's country.

In this brief survey of fertility in the four great Dominions of the British Commonwealth, I have made no attempt to enrich the world with new facts or original opinions, and doubtless what I have said may appear but an incursion into the realm of platitude. But platitudes may serve a useful purpose, and my purpose will have been fulfilled if I have shown that the Dominions present population problems of high scientific interest, which merit all the attention that can be devoted to them.

But for my part I am unable to regard the facts I have tried to summarize as constituting nothing more than interesting research material. To me these facts seem fraught with momentous significance. Pondering on the rapid decline of British fertility all over the world, one seems to feel the presence of an element of Greek tragedy—the presence of a mysterious force moving ceaselessly, relentlessly, to an unknown but tragic destiny.

* *The South African Journal of Economics*, March 1936

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Eugenics Review, Vol. XXX, No. 1

Ryle acted as Chairman of the small committee formed to help Dr. Blacker in the choice of subjects and in the preparation of that book and others. Professor Ryle's work has taken him from London, as you all know; to-night he comes back to us as a eugenist and as our lecturer celebrating the Galton anniversary."

The vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Sir Walter Langdon-Brown and seconded by Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard. Professor Ryle's lecture on "Medicine and Eugenics" is published on page 9.

Mr. Julian Huxley

It is with very great pleasure that we record the election of Mr. Julian Huxley to the Fellowship of the Royal Society. The inclusion in the same list of new Fellows of Mr. T. L. Eckersley, another grandson of

T. H. Huxley—himself a former Fellow and President of the *Society*—constitutes a rare, if not indeed unprecedented, double event.

Elections to the Society

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carriers. Others have held that these different structures are possibly only the by-products of genes which had a positive selective value as regards some physiological processes. Now it becomes clear that selection need not be invoked to explain every change in the genetical constitution of a population; the very mechanism of particulate inheritance in populations of limited size leads of necessity to some genes becoming fixed, whether they are advantageous or not. It will even happen that a gene becomes homozygous against selection, and these random changes depend on the size of the effective breeding population; the smaller that is, the more likely are such changes to occur. Here we come to an important point. The geographical distribution of species over an area is often probably far from continuous; instead of a large inter-breeding community, most species are split up into small, more or less self-contained sub-groups, and little interchange occurs between neighbouring groups. In these small groups of individuals, almost anything may happen through chance alone, and once it has happened, the process is irreversible. Professor Dobzhansky is, of course, far from denying the importance of selection, but it becomes clear that selection is not the only force that changes the constitution of populations.

This is just one point, selected only to whet the reader's appetite. For in a short review it is impossible to deal adequately with all the important ideas in this book. But it may be confidently predicted that no biologist will read it without considerable benefit.

H. GRÜNEBERG.

Mauz, Friedrich. *Die Veranlagung zu Krampfanfällen.* Leipzig, 1937. Georg Thieme. Pp. 68. Price RM. 2.80.

THIS little book is of considerable interest to the psychiatrist, but of less interest to the worker in human genetics. It carries the methods and the manner of thinking of Kretschmer into the family circle of the epileptics. The author describes vividly and with a lively pen the physical and mental characteristics of the relatives of epileptics, and attempts to classify the varieties of personality and constitution met with into different types. For these types he coins a number of new names. But the classification as well as the terminology strike one as arbitrary and unlikely to be of general validity. He supports his argument by the somewhat anecdotal method of describing particular instances, and saying that similar instances are to be met with regularly or with great frequency. But the geneticist wishes to know with what frequency, and by what objective criteria one type is to be distinguished from another. Should one wish to make a statistical analysis of the types of physical and mental constitution shown by epileptics and their

nearer blood-relatives, one would need something better than the highly subjective methods employed by the author. The work of Kretschmer started in the same way; and subsequent attempts have been made to reduce his types to indices and formulæ, on the whole with indifferent success. Nevertheless Kretschmer added something permanent to our body of knowledge. Of the author of this book so much can hardly be said. Nevertheless his sharp clinical insight and admirable gift for description atone to a great extent for his habit of dogmatic generalization, and have resulted in an interesting and stimulating treatise.

ELIOT SLATER.

Muntendorf, Otto. *Volkstod droht! Die biologische Gefahrlage des Sudetendeutschtums in Bildern und Zahlen.* Teplitz-Schoenau, 1937. Wia-Verlag. Pp. 135. Price Kc. 10.

THIS pamphlet, a collection of fifty-seven pictorial charts, graphs, and maps with explanatory text, is a beautiful piece of propaganda literature. The threatening population crisis of the Sudeten Germans is presented vividly with a host of impressive figures and much emotional appeal.

T.

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women's work in Germany and abroad—but eugenically speaking their interest is practically nil.
URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology

September-October 1937, Vol. XXVIII, No. 3.—*Structure of Punishment*.—By N. S. Timasheff.—The author states that the interaction of individuals in social groups results in the creation of an ethical group-conviction which is expressed by individual recognition of certain rules on the part of group members. It is not necessary for a rule to be recognized by every group member: the recognition by a majority is sufficient, for it induces other group members to act with a "concern" for the "common" recognition. Where a group member recognizes an ethical rule he adjusts his behaviour to its contents and tries to influence other group members to do the same. Such a will-disposition is the essence of the recognition. The author emphasizes the fact that society as a whole is the bearer of the mechanism of preventing crime. He wisely insists that new forms of treating criminals should be introduced with caution and with due regard to the natural laws ruling the socio-cultural reflex of Crime and Punishment.

W. NORWOOD EAST.

The Sociological Review

January 1938, Vol. XXX, No. 1.—The most recent number of the *Sociological Review* might almost be

described as an "axis" number, though it is questionable how far its contents would please the Fascist dictators or their allies. Grzegorz Frumkin analyses the expansion of population in Japan and concludes that the process is much the same as occurred in England a century ago, but with the evil results of *laissez-faire* made worse by deliberate State encouragement. Andries Sternheim shows that leisure, as we understand the word, is almost non-existent in totalitarian states, though Germany is worse in this respect than Italy. Maximilian Beck is perhaps pushing at an open door when he demonstrates the independence of culture from race, as opposed to nationality. He does, however, make two very interesting points, that the apostles of racial destiny stultify themselves by denouncing those who "betray" their race, and that if culture really depended on race we should be unable to appreciate the artistic productions of other races such as the Japanese.

Marie Jahoda writes on a very general subject, *Some Ideas on Social and Psychological Research*, but actually much of her article is concerned with researches made into conditions at the little town of Marienthal in Austria, researches which show the difficulties in obtaining scientific data when human beings are the subject of study.

Hans Rothfels begins an extremely interesting study comparing English and German social institutions and developments during the nineteenth century and showing how Bismarck, while understanding and admiring English institutions, had the genius to realize that though they might influence Germany they could not be transplanted.

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